amenities/facilities provided in the coaches of express trains are:—

(i) Cushioned berths in Sleeper class coaches

(ii) Light fittings including fans

(iii) Luggage racks

(iv) Toilets with necessary fittings like mirrors, washbasins etc.

(v) Alarm Chain for safety

In addition, following facilities are also being provided:

(i) Bed rolls to all passengers of AC I & AC 2-tier coaches.

(ii) Travelling safaiwallas on nominated long distance express trains to clean the compartment and toilets during the journey.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Regulations Governing Computer Training Institutes

*414. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the hundreds of Computer Training Institutes being opened in various cities in our country;

(b) the details of the regulations which govern such Institutes;

(c) whether several such Institutes are advertising about their being affiliated to various foreign universities, if so, what is the position in this regard and what is Government's reaction to this; and

(d) what steps are being taken to encourage computer education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (d): Under the AICTE Act, 1987, AICTE accords approval to technical education institutions in the country to conduct various programmes at diploma, undergraduate and post-graduate levels including computer education. To encourage quality computer education in the non-formal sector, the Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses (DOEACC) gives accreditation to various institutions/organisations for running courses equivalent to certificate, diploma, degree and masters level subject to their meeting certain well defined norms and criteria. There are no regulations for the institutions run by the private institutions unless they are either accredited to DOEACC or are approved by the AICTE. No programme of any institution having affiliation with foreign universities has been approved by the AICTE.

[illegible] Performance at Atlanta Olympics

*415. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main reasons for the poor performance of India at the Atlanta Olympics;

(b) the steps taken by Government to improve the standard of various games; and

(c) whether Government propose to review its sports policy for necessary improvement in sports activities; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) It is difficult to pinpoint any definite set of reasons for the poor performance of India at the Atlanta Olympics. Reasonably good performance was expected in Hockey, Shooting and Tennis. In Tennis Shri

Leander Paes won a Bronze Medal. In Hockey, though India defeated countries like Spain, the team had to finish at 8th position. In the remaining disciplines the standard of India's sports persons was far below the international standards and, therefore, there was no medal-hope to start with. There are several reasons for India's poor performance in various international tournaments. The reasons, broadly, are:—

(i) Lack of long term commitment for the development of sports in India at the National and State level.

(ii) Inadequate monetary resources.

(iii) Non-availability of infrastructural facilities right upto the grass root level including training areas, standard sports equipment etc.

(iv) Lack of integration of Physical Education and Sports with educational curriculum.

(b) Promotion and development of sports is an ongoing process and Government of India has several schemes to improve the standard of sports in the country. However, in the Sports management set up-both at the international level as well as at the national level-promotion of sports depend largely also on the sports federations. It is the Federations who are responsible for organising tournaments at various levels, and ensure that good sports persons emerge through these tournaments. The Central Government has also made efforts to formulate discipline-wise long term development plans in consultation with the Federations. Such plans are being reviewed periodically. Dialogue has also been carried out with the Industry to increase their investment in sports and tax reliefs have been provided for creation of such infrastructure. However, the efforts of the Central Government are severely limited by the general lack of financial resources.

(c) The thrust areas identified in the National Sports Policy is broad basing of sports, on hand and promoting excellence in sports on the other. All measures taken by the Government have been in furtherence of this policy. In order to broad-base sports as also to promote excellence the following specific steps have been initiated.:—

(i) Action has already been initiated to formulate Long Term Development Plans for each discipline in consultation with the concerned Federations.

(ii) Continuous dialogue is being carried on with Private and Public Sector Companies to increase their investment in Sports, both in infrastructure as also in development of sports academies.

(iii) Better monitoring of the proposals of infrastructure is being done to ensure that limited reasources are not spread too thinly.

(iv) Action has also been initiated to bring sports on the concurrent list. At present sports is a State subject.

The sports policy implemented with these new initiatives are expected to achieve the desired goals in due course of time.

Rail Accidents

*416. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents that took place duing the last three years alongwith the deaths caused, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of accidents at manned and unmanned level crossings and the number of casualties reported in Punjab;

(c) the compensation given to the victims in such accidents; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the occurrence of such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):